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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

January 10, 2006

FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.  
2026 RAMBLING ROAD  
KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631  
US

Dear Sir/Madam,

Your refund request for 10517735 in the amount of \$222.00 has been denied .

Article 34 claims were used with a total of 11 claims the pre. amendment did not address claims 10 and 11 which were multiples.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "R" and "W".

RITA WHITE  
PCT - National  
703 308-9140 x231

PATENT MAINTENANCE  
DIVISION  
PATENT APPLICATION

2005 JUL 19 PM 11:24

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

US PATENT & TRADEMARK  
OFFICE

July 14, 2005

Applicant(s): Ian Richard WEBB et al.

For: PIPE COUPLING COMPRISING A DIVIDED SLEEVE

Serial No.: 10/517 735 Group: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Filed: December 6, 2004 Examiner: Unknown

International Application No.: PCT/GB03/02492

International Filing Date: June 9, 2003

Atty. Docket No.: R&G C-388

Mail Stop 16  
Director of the United States  
Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR REFUND

Sir:

We have received the Monthly Statement of Deposit Account for Deposit Account No. 06-1382 (copy attached). An erroneous charge appears on this statement for the above-identified patent application.

More specifically, our deposit account has been erroneously charged \$72.00 under Fee Code 2615 (i.e., "Claims - extra total (over twenty)") and \$150.00 under Fee Code 2616 (i.e., "Claims - multiple dependent") for a total erroneous charge of \$222.00.

Please note that the instant national-stage PCT application was filed on December 6, 2004. The application as filed contained nine total claims and one independent claim (see enclosed copy of Form PTO-1390). Thus applicant should not have been charged for over twenty claims. A Preliminary Amendment was filed with the application which amended Claims

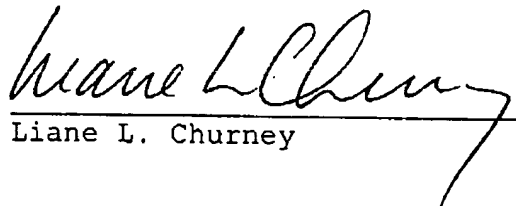
3-6, 8 and 9 to eliminate multiple dependencies therein (see attached copy of Preliminary Amendment Cancelling Claims dated December 6, 2004). The first and last paragraphs of said Preliminary Amendment specifically instructed that the amendment was to be entered prior to calculation of the filing fee. Consequently, the total filing fee for this application was \$475.00 as calculated on Form PTO-1390.

A check for \$475.00 was enclosed with the application, and said check was received and deposited by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. (See enclosed postal card date-stamped on December 6, 2004 and enclosed copy of Check No. 025823.)

A credit to our Deposit Account (No. 06-1382) in the amount of \$222.00 is in order, and such is respectfully requested.

IN DUPLICATE

Respectfully submitted,

  
Liane L. Churney

LLC/jp

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL	Dale H. Thiel	Reg. No. 24 323
& TANIS, P.C.	David G. Boutell	Reg. No. 25 072
2026 Rambling Road	Ronald J. Tanis	Reg. No. 22 724
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Fax: (269) 381-5465	Liane L. Churney	Reg. No. 40 694
	Brian R. Tumm	Reg. No. 36 328
	Steven R. Thiel	Reg. No. 53 685
	Donald J. Wallace	Reg. No. 43 977
	Kevin L. Pontius	Reg. No. 37 512
	Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949

Encl: Copy of Deposit Account Statement  
Copy of Form PTO-1390, with Express Mailing Certificate dated December 6, 2004  
Copy of Postal Card date stamped on December 6, 2004  
Copy of Preliminary Amendment Cancelling Claims dated December 6, 2004  
Copy of Check No. 025823, with USPTO endorsement

110.0703


**Deposit Account Statement**

**Requested Statement Month:** July 2005  
**Deposit Account Number:** 061382  
**Name:** FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.  
**Attention:**  
**Address:** 2026 RAMBLING ROAD  
**City:** KALAMAZOO  
**State:** MI  
**Zip:** 49008-1699  
**Country:** UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DATE	SEQ	POSTING REF TXT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NBR	FEE CODE	AMT	BAL
07/01	182	10996660	4200.P0116US	8021	\$40.00	\$27,274.55
07/05	302	5704299	5 704 299 HAWORTH 190	1552	\$2,300.00	\$24,974.55
07/05	303	5704720	5 704 720 KANZAKI 106	1552	\$2,300.00	\$22,674.55
07/05	305	6337637	6 337 637 SWAN	1551	\$900.00	\$21,774.55
07/05	348	78662906	3003.T0233US	7001	\$650.00	\$21,124.55
07/06	2	10838890	S*I CASE 130D	1201	\$200.00	\$20,924.55
07/06	12	5704594	5 704 594 FLOWSERVE	1552	\$2,300.00	\$18,624.55
07/06	82	10520543	VINAZZER 3	8021	\$40.00	\$18,584.55
07/07	57	10515893	5725.P0004US	8021	\$40.00	\$18,544.55
07/07	103	2580244	3003.T0233JP 3003.T0233EM	8503	\$30.00	\$18,514.55
07/07	155	11130710	W-W CASE 66	8021	\$40.00	\$18,474.55
07/08	4	10517735	R&G C-388 CLAIMS OVERDUE	2615	\$72.00	\$18,402.55
07/08	5	10517735	R&G C-388 CLAIMS OVERDUE	2616	\$150.00	\$18,252.55
07/08	93	11105330	3200.P0018US	8021	\$40.00	\$18,212.55
07/08	95	11105328	3200.P0016US	8021	\$40.00	\$18,172.55
07/08	149	11105314	3200.P0015	8021	\$40.00	\$18,132.55
07/08	1072	78349563	RUFF TM 7	7004	\$300.00	\$17,832.55
07/08	1100	1907860	5272.T0005US	7205	\$100.00	\$17,732.55
07/08	1101	1907860	5272.T0005US	7201	\$400.00	\$17,332.55
07/11	11	10520051		9204	-\$50.00	\$17,382.55
07/11	30	10520027		9204	-\$100.00	\$17,482.55
07/11	1215	78221965	3900.T0031US	7004	\$300.00	\$17,182.55

START SUM OF  
 BALANCE CHARGES  
 \$27,314.55 \$10,282.00

SUM OF END  
 REPLENISH BALANCE  
 \$150.00 \$17,182.55

PATENT APPLICATION

Express Mail Label No.: EV 464 236 946 US

Date of Mailing: December 6, 2004

 **COPY**

Applicant(s) : Ian Richard WEBB et al.

For : PIPE COUPLING COMPRISING A DIVIDED SLEEVE

PCT International Application No.: PCT/GB03/02492

PCT International Filing Date: June 9, 2003

U.S. Application No.

(if known, see 37 CFR 1.5): Unknown

Atty. Docket No.: R&G C-388

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAILED TO PATENT OFFICE  
DEC - 6 2004  
DATE DEC - 6 2004

EXPRESS MAILING CERTIFICATE

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.

By: December 6, 2004

Date: 

Document(s) attached: Form PTO-1390 dated December 6, 2004,  
and all enclosures listed thereon

Telephone: (269) 381-1156

391.05/03

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE . PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EV 464 236 946 US

December 6, 2004

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER: R&G C-388

U.S. APPLICATION NO.

Confirmation No.: Unknown

(If known, see 37 CFR 1.5): Unknown

 **COPY**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/GB03/02492

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: June 9, 2003

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED: June 7, 2002

TITLE OF INVENTION: PIPE COUPLING COMPRISING A DIVIDED SLEEVE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: Ian Richard WEBB and Neil John Thornton TAYLOR

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
  - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information:
  1. Title page of Publication No. WO 03/104706
  2. Formal Drawings (2 sheets)
  3. Acknowledgement Postal Card

U.S. APPLICATION NO.  
(if known, see 37 CFR 1.5):  
Unknown

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.:  
PCT/GB03/02492

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER:  
R&G C-388

21. [X] The following fees are submitted:

Calculations PTO USE ONLY

**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$1110.00  
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$ 950.00  
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$ 790.00  
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$ 750.00  
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$ 100.00  
**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$950.00**

 **COPY**

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). \$ 0.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	9 - 20 =	0	X \$ 18.00	\$ 0.00
Ind. claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$ 88.00	\$ 0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) + \$300.00				\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$950.00</b>

[X] Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.  
**SUBTOTAL = \$475.00**

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).  
**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$475.00**

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property  
**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$475.00**


Amount to be refunded: \$  
charged: \$

- a. [X] A check in the amount of \$475.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.  
b. [ ] Please charge my Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.  
c. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1382. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

IN DUPLICATE

PLEASE DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE TO THE ADDRESS  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOLLOWING CUSTOMER  
NUMBER: 23474

  
Dale H. Thiel  
Registration Number: 24 323  
DHT/jp

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.  
2026 Rambling Road  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-1631

DT07 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0 6 DEC 2004

Received the following National Application:

Applicant(s): Ian Richard WEBB et al.

Title: PIPE COUPLING COMPRISING A DIVIDED SLEEVE

PCT International Application No.: PCT/GB03/02492

PCT International Filing Date: June 9, 2003

Pages of: Specification 11, Claims 3

Abstract 1

Sheets of Drawings: 2

Declaration: Not enclosed

Filing Fee: \$475.00 ( ☒ Check ☐ Deposit Acct)

Other: Form PTO-1390 dated December 6, 2004;

Preliminary Amendment Cancelling Claims; Title Page of  
Publication No. WO 03/104706

Our Ref: R&G C-388

Express Mail Cert. (Label No. EV 464 236 946 US)

Due: December 7, 2004

 **COPY**

10/517735

DHT DGB RJT  
TFC MLM LLC  
BRT SRT SBW

DEC 27 2004

DJW PMG GMS  
KC CMC TLT  
FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.  
2026 Rambling Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631





PATENT APPLICATION

Express Mail Label No.: EV 464 236 946 US

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

December 6, 2004

Applicant(s) : Ian Richard WEBB et al.  
For : PIPE COUPLING COMPRISING A DIVIDED SLEEVE

PCT International Application No.: PCT/GB03/02492

PCT International Filing Date: June 9, 2003

U.S. Application No.

(if known, see 37 CFR 1.5): Unknown

Atty. Docket No.: R&G C-388

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT CANCELLING CLAIMS

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee in the above-identified application, kindly enter the following:

(Please see following pages.)

Amendments to the Claims

 **COPY**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A pipe coupling for connecting together the ends of two pipes, comprising a tubular casing (12), a tubular sealing sleeve (13) inside the casing, and tensioning means (25) for tightening the casing around the sealing sleeve, the arrangement being such that when the coupling is placed around the ends of two pipes to be connected and the tensioning means are tightened the casing presses the sealing sleeve against the pipe ends to form seals, the casing (12) comprising a strip of metal formed into a tube with a gap (14) extending longitudinally of the casing between the free ends of the strip, the tensioning means (25) interconnecting the free ends of the strip, characterised in that the free ends of the strip are bent outwardly to form radially projecting flanges (15) extending longitudinally of the casing on opposite sides of the gap (14), the two flanges being placed between two reinforcing members (20), the tensioning means passing through sets of aligned holes (30, 31, 32, 33) in the reinforcing members (20) and the flanges (15), the reinforcing member having an angled cross-section and extending substantially the length of the coupling.

2. (Original) A pipe coupling according to claim 1 in which the casing has circumferentially extending end flanges (17) projecting inwardly from the axial ends of the casing.

3. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ in which each reinforcing member has a web portion through which the holes (30) for the tensioning means pass, and a flange (21) running along the longitudinal edge of

 **COPY**

the web portion that is nearer to the axis of the coupling,  
the flange bearing against the tubular portion of the casing.

4. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to  
~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the reinforcing  
member has a channel-shaped cross section with flanges (21)  
running along both longitudinal edges of the web portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to  
~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which frusto-conical  
gripping rings (50) are located within the casing at opposite  
ends of the casing, the inner edges (54) of the gripping rings  
being formed with teeth (52).

6. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to  
~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which there are two  
sets of aligned holes (30, 31, 32, 33) and the tensioning  
means comprise two screw bolts (25) and nuts (34).

7. (Original) A pipe coupling according to claim 6 in  
which the nuts (34) are of a size that fits between the sides  
(21) of the U-shaped member (20) so as to prevent rotation of  
the nuts.

8. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to  
~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which a backing ring  
(55) is provided inside the casing adjacent each gripping ring  
(50) between the gripping ring and the sealing sleeve (13) to  
prevent the sealing sleeve bulging between the teeth of the  
gripping ring.

9. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to  
~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which an inner sleeve  
(45) is provided inside the sealing sleeve to prevent the  
sealing sleeve bulging inwardly between the pipe ends.

REMARKS

 **COPY**

This amendment eliminates multiple dependencies in some of the claims to reduce the filing fee. Please enter this amendment before calculating the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Dale H. Thiel

DHT/jp

Encl: None

336.05/03

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & FANIS, P.C.

2026 HAMBURG ROAD  
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49008

025823

DATE 12/16/04

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

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\$ 47,486.00

Four Hundred Seventy Four and 00/100

REF: P.C. 324

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KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & FANIS, P.C.

*Thiel*

PRINTED SIGNATURE

⑈025823⑈ ⑆072400052⑆ 0001431533⑈

⑈0000047500⑈

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FILA, PA 12212044 32PC

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105 47486

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